

## **FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING**

The City of Marlborough will be starting its hydrant flushing program the week of April 3, 2023. Hydrant flushing will occur from April 3, 2023 through May and possibly into June. Residents may notice Water crews working at fire hydrants and allowing water to flow from the hydrant. This process of flushing the fire hydrants is an important maintenance activity to maintain water quality for our customers and improve system efficiency.

The City of Marlborough, Water Division, conducts a fire hydrant flushing program for the following purposes:

- ✓ Flushes sediments from water main pipes to enhance water quality.
- ✓ Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and associated valves.
- ✓ Aids in determining deficiencies in the water distribution system.
- ✓ Identifies closed valves and proper flows in the water mains.
- ✓ Verifies water pressure and flow for firefighting.

### ***Notifications:***

***Hydrant Flushing:*** Hydrant flushing is the process of opening each fire hydrant and forcing water through the water mains of the distribution system to dislodge small particles of rust and sediment that have built up. Although, the sediment does not pose a health risk it can discolor the water.

***Discolored Water:*** Temporary discoloration of water may occur as particles are cleaned from the pipes. Although this discolored water is not harmful to your health, you can clear this issue by running all cold water faucets inside your home for 15 minutes, or until the water runs clear. If the water continues to be discolored, please contact DPW dispatch at 508-624-6910. Please note: it is important to not wash laundry while water is discolored. Washing clothes especially with chlorine bleach when water is discolored will stain laundry.

### ***Common questions regarding hydrant flushing:***

**Q:** Why is my water pressure low?

**A:** Your water pressure may be low due to the flushing of fire hydrants. The possibility of low pressure will resolve in your area once the flushing is complete.

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Q: Why is my water discolored?

*A: Water discoloration is due to the stirring of sedimentation in the water main when the hydrants are flushed.*

Q: What should I do about the discolored water?

*A: It is recommended that you run all cold water faucets in your home for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears.*

Q: Is the discolored water safe to consume?

*A: Yes. The discoloration is caused by mineral deposits that settle in the water mains and are stirred during hydrant flushing. Although the water is safe it is recommended that you run all cold water faucets in your home for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears.*

Q: Is it ok to wash laundry when the water is discolored.

*A: No. It is recommended that you run all faucets in your home for approximately 15 minutes or until water clears. Washing clothes especially with chlorine bleach when water is discolored will stain laundry.*

Q: Who should I contact if my water remains discolored?

*A: Please contact DPW dispatch at 508-624-6910.*